

Message Text

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47

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20 USIA-15 CU-05

OPR-02 SCS-03 SCA-01 DRC-01 /101 W

----- 067297

R 101020Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4910

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

CDRUSMACTHAI SPT GP CP SAMAE SAN

CDRUSMACTHAI BANGKOK

CINCUSARPAC FT SHAFTER HI.

DA WASHDC

AMCONSUL CHIANG MAI

AMCONSUL UDORN

AMCONSUL SONGKHLA

13 AF ADVON

USSAG

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MILI, TH

SUBJECT: DESECRATION OF THAI FLAG BY US ARMY ENLISTED MAN

REF: BANGKOK 11058 (NOTAL)

1. PFC KENNETH R. RALSTON WAS FOUND GUILTY BY THE THAI COURT OF PUBLIC DRUNKENNESS AND DESECRATION OF TWO FLAGS. HE WAS SENTENCED TO TWELVE MONTHS CONFINEMENT AND A FINE OF 1250 BAHT (APPROXIMATELY \$62.50). THE CONFINEMENT WAS REDUCED BY THE COURT TO SIX MONTHS, WHICH IS CONSISTENT WITH ITS LIMITED JURISDICTION.

2. THE TRIAL AND SENTENCING RECEIVED MEDIA COVERAGE, INCLUDING THE PHOTOGRAPHING OF THE SENTENCED RALSTON IN
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HANDCUFFS IN THE CUSTODY OF THAI AUTHORITIES. THE THAI

PRESS HAS GIVEN WIDE COVERAGE TO THE INCIDENT WITH FAR LESS RESTRAINT THAN THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE DAILIES. ONE SUCH PAPER, FOR EXAMPLE, THE THAI RATH EXPRESSED DOUBT THAT RALSTON WOULD BE MADE AVAILABLE FOR TRIAL. MOST OF THESE PAPERS, IN FACT, OPINED THAT RALSTON WOULD BE SENT OUT OF THAILAND.

3. WHILE IT HAS BEEN RUMORED THAT THIS INCIDENT WOULD PROMPT STUDENT DEMONSTRATIONS, NO SUCH ACTIVITY HAS YET OCCURRED. THE PROMPT RESOLUTION OF THE CASE MAY HAVE DIFFUSED THIS POTENTIALITY.
KINTNER

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY PERSONNEL, PRESS COMMENTS, FLAG DISPLAY REGULATIONS, CIVIL DISORDERS, ARRESTS, TRIALS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 10 JUL 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: shawdg
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974BANGKO11167
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740183-1030
From: BANGKOK
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19740763/aaaacbov.tel
Line Count: 73
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: BANGKOK 11058 (NOTAL)
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: shawdg
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 12 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <12-Aug-2002 by boyleja>; APPROVED <21 FEB 2003 by shawdg>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DESECRATION OF THAI FLAG BY US ARMY ENLISTED MAN
TAGS: MILI, TH, US, (RALSTON, KENNETH R)
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005